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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/60/496 and Corr.1 and 2)*]

60/216. International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/169 M of 16 December 1997, 53/1 H of 16 November 1998, 55/44 of 27 November 2000 and 57/101 of 25 November 2002,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Recognizing that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, remains a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to the long-term nature of its consequences for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

Taking into consideration the results of the international conference on the problems of the Semipalatinsk region, held in Tokyo in 1999, which have promoted the effectiveness of the assistance provided to the population of the region,

Recognizing the important role of national development policies and strategies in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, and taking note with satisfaction of the elaboration of the Kazakhstan national programme entitled "Complex solution of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site problems for 2005–2007",

Recognizing also the contribution of different organizations of the United Nations system, donor States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to humanitarian assistance and to the implementation of the projects aimed at the rehabilitation of the region and the role of the Government of Kazakhstan in this regard,

Recognizing further the challenges Kazakhstan faces in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular in the context of the efforts by the Government of Kazakhstan to ensure an effective and timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

[1] A/60/302.

Taking note of the need for know-how in minimizing and mitigating radiological, health, socio-economic, psychological and environmental problems in the Semipalatinsk region,

Taking into account the fact that many international programmes in the Semipalatinsk region have been completed whereas serious social, economic and ecological problems continue to exist,

Conscious that the international community should continue to pay due attention to the issue of the human, ecological and socio-economic dimensions of the situation in the Semipalatinsk region,

Emphasizing the importance of support by donor States and international development organizations for the efforts by Kazakhstan to improve the social, economic and environmental situation in the Semipalatinsk region,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the information contained therein on measures taken to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems and to meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

2. *Welcomes and recognizes* the important role of the Government of Kazakhstan in providing domestic resources to help meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including for the implementation of the Kazakhstan national programme entitled "Complex solution of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site problems for 2005–2007";

3. *Calls upon* the international community, including all Member States, in particular donor States, and United Nations institutions to continue to support Kazakhstan in addressing the challenges of the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region and its population, taking additional action, including by facilitating the implementation of the Kazakhstan national programme on addressing the problems of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground in a comprehensive manner, and stresses the importance of regional cooperation in this regard;

4. *Urges* the international community to provide assistance to Kazakhstan in the formulation and implementation of special programmes and projects of treatment and care for the affected population as well as in the efforts to ensure economic growth and sustainable development in the Semipalatinsk region;

5. *Calls upon* all States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to share their knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to pursue a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, under a separate sub-item, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

68th plenary meeting
22 December 2005